

# RURAL AT RANDOM

By VERYL SANDERSON  
Courier Farm Editor

## Start at Home Plate

Gripe, gripe, gripe.  
It seems to be a common pastime. There's nothing wrong with griping. I like to do it.  
Gripes keep people thinking about how to improve situations. Sometimes, they even lead to results.

FOR INSTANCE, TAKE the married couple who were driving through town.  
"Look at those young kids walking over there, hand in hand," she pointed. "Why don't we head do that anymore?"  
"It's kind of hard reaching over the heads of three kids," her mate replied.

Shortly, they were traveling behind another young couple, the girl sitting precariously close to the driver. "We never do that any more either. Not since we were married," the wife again griped.  
"We haven't moved."

ALTHOUGH USEFUL, GRIPES can be overdone without proper foundations. There's plenty of room for gripes but let's make sure we start from home plate instead of second base.

Just to set the record straight, here are some statistics of cash grain farmers in Illinois.

Net income was \$16,110 in 1966, well above the \$4,955 average for all farms and the \$9,099 median average of commercial farms listed in the USDA report.

The cash grain farmer compensated for his drop in yield by expanding his corn acreage from 107 in 1965 to 120 in 1966.

GROSS INCOME FROM corn production was \$14,713, compared to \$10,890 in 1965 and represented 55 per cent of his income from crops.

Soybeans, with 86 acres, were second, followed by wheat (27 acres), hay (20 acres) and oats (7 acres). Gross income for the cash grain farmer was \$28,692.

Total farm capital was \$203,180, a very high figure exceeded only by the larger cotton farms in California and Mississippi, sheep and cattle ranches in the Southwest, and winter wheat farms in the Pacific Northwest.

Total income from crops was \$25,138; poultry and eggs, \$219; perquisites, \$1,583; and other items, including government payments, \$1,720.

# Producers Squawk About Inspection of Gobblers

By VERYL SANDERSON  
Courier Farm Editor

There's a squawk being raised over the grading and inspection of gobblers, and apparently it's legitimate.

The whole issue centers around the turkey inspection service and the interpretation of criteria for inspection.

14 A Minute

"A processing line of a plant moves about 14 birds a minute," says Chuck Morgan of Dike. "These birds are inspected by the head inspector and two assistants."

"Their purpose is to watch for birds or parts of birds unfit for human consumption."

"Once the birds are through the line, the grader inspects the birds. If there is any trimming from the carcass, the bird automatically loses its Grade A rating."

"At current market price, a Grade A tom will sell for 33 cents a pound, Grade B about 3 cents less and Grade C from 7 to 8 cents less."

"That's a spread of about 27 per cent."

"The producers sell on a grade and yield basis, so it's not only hurting the plant, but the producer too."

Morgan operates Midwest Turkey Hatchery at Dike, from which about 600,000 turkeys are hatched annually. Of these, about 80 per cent are sold and 20 per cent raised at Morgan Turkey Farms at Sumner, Frederickburg and Nashua.

No Correlation

He says records indicate a downgrading of the processed product of about 10 per cent. "On the basis of 100,000 birds, that's a loss of about \$19,000

over last year," Morgan says. "Also, there's no correlation between plant inspectors. In fact, it's so bad, there are certain plants I can't afford to sell to because their inspectors are so strict," Morgan points out.

Basically there are three groupings which the graders look for on carcasses to determine classifications: conformation of the bird; fat cover; and carcass blemishes, including missing parts.

It's this last group where the inspection agent has the decision.

Each year, usually in May or June, a 12-member advisory committee reviews the criteria for inspectors. The committee is composed of universities of experimental station staffs. All are interested in poultry diseases and most are veterinarians.

There is no member of producer or processor groups on the committee.

Time Long

Morgan asserts the time is long past when this committee should be made up of consumer, producer and distributor representatives.

"Quite frankly," officials admit, "our inspection service is not producer oriented, but consumer. Our responsibility lies with the consumer."

No Changes

"We're strictly advisory," Dr. Hofstad explains. "We have no authority to change any of the criteria. That's up to the U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel."

"The committee hasn't met this year yet, but last year there were essentially no changes in the criteria. Our group made no recommendation."

## Robert Lyon Wins First In Contest

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE)

TRAER — Robert Lyon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lyon of Traer, has been named first place winner in the 1967 National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest sponsored by the American Jersey Cattle Club, Columbus, Ohio.

He will be honored at the club's 100th annual meeting in Columbus on Oct. 11.

Robert started his 4-H career in 1959 with one registered Jersey heifer calf. In the last 8 years he has completed 57 projects involving 22 Jerseys. He has exhibited on the county, district, regional and national levels.

His outstanding winnings include three grand championships, one reserve grand championship, four junior championships and first place in the Best Underdow Cow Class five times, the Dairy Herd Class four times and the Best Three Females Class once at state level.

On the national level he showed the first senior yearling in milk at the National Dairy Cattle Congress and All American Jersey Show in 1966 and had the reserve senior and reserve grand champion and winning best three females at the NDCC Open Show.

He has also won six showmanship awards on the state level. He has held positions of leadership in both 4-H and FFA and was active in school, athletics, church and community affairs. In 1967 he was selected Champion Jersey Club member in Iowa.

Robert is presently enrolled at Iowa State University where he is a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. He participated in the 1967 Little International and was named Champion Showman and then Champion Dairy Showman.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE) MANCHESTER — Donald J. Schlichte, 17, son of the Bernard Schlichtes of Earlville, has won a \$400 Farm Journal scholarship from the department of technical journalism at Iowa State University. A senior at West Delaware, he will enroll next fall as an agricultural journalism major at Iowa State. His scholarship was one of 29 awarded by the department of technical journalism totaling \$7,950, the largest amount in the department's history.

try, move at a right angle to the tornado's path if time permits, otherwise lie in a depression, such as a ditch.

(6.) Keep calm. Listen to your radio or television for current reports. Don't call the Weather Bureau except to report a tornado.

(7.) If you are in or near tornado damaged area, be calm and careful. Don't touch loose wires — they may be alive. Be alert to prevent fire.

(5.) If you are in open coun-

that the interpretation of the criteria be made more strict."

Dr. Hofstad also notes the committee is not always in complete agreement on what constitutes a particular disease or blemish to the point of condemning the turkey carcass or parts of it.

"Skin leukosis is a perfect example."

"So if we have trouble in definition, the inspector on the line will have difficulty, particularly if it's a new disease."

"There's a pretty fine line to be contented with," Dr. Hofstad explains. "There are going to be variations."

Another gripe Morgan has with the service is that the producer has no financial recourse once birds have been condemned.

Test Proof

"There's been situations where several lots of birds have been condemned and the producers have had the birds tested. The tests proved there was no disease."

"But the producer had to take the loss because the birds were gone and there's no one to turn to for compensation."

Dr. Phillip Ekhart of the U.S. inspection service office in Des Moines is indicating the department is working to bring more unity between inspectors and between plants.



GRADE A, B, OR C? — Whether this tom will be packaged as a USDA Grade A, B or C could depend heavily on the plant where he is slaughtered and inspection. Chuck Morgan of Dike says there are at least four plant he knows about he can't afford to sell his turkeys at because of the strict inspectors.

## Bureau Opposes Road Tax Change

The Iowa Farm Bureau told the Democratic state platform committee last week there should be no change in the share of road use tax funds going to secondary roads.

Jerry Snelten, assistant public policy director, said any reallocation of these road funds would be most undesirable and ill-advised.

He added professional studies have shown the greatest projected needs and the largest deficits in funds are in the secondary system.

More Revenue

"We believe a much better solution to meeting the cities' street needs would be finding additional revenue for this purpose. We will support reasonable legislation to provide additional street revenue for cities."

Calling the recent tax revision laws as steps forward, the Farm Bureau official said Iowa should continue to maintain state aid for schools at about 40 per cent of total school costs.

And Snelten recommended consideration of an increase in the present limit of \$2,500 assessed for valuation of personal property which a state credit is granted.

The Farm Bureau spokesman questioned the use and reliability of sales ratio studies (assessed value as a per cent of sales value) as a basis for equalization.

## Man Ordered To Sell Stock

IMPERIAL, Calif. (AP) — Edward U. Baer is under orders to sell about 60 animals on his 40-acre farm near here.

Baer, an impoverished farmer, says he loves the animals. He says he handfed baby goats and heifers but that he didn't have enough money to feed them all.

"It was the worst situation I've seen in five years," said Capt. W. R. Virden of the State Humane Society, who ordered the animals sold or killed.

## Farm News

### Extension EXCERPTS...

## Storm Alerts Unheard or Unheeded

By BILL DAVIDSON

County Extension Director

October 14, 1966, marked Iowa's greatest tornado disaster in nearly half a century until last Wednesday afternoon. In a span of 19 months three of Iowa's most destructive tornadoes have left their scars here.

In both the Belmont tornado and last Wednesday's destruction, nearly a dozen tornadoes swept across Iowa. The Belmont tornado struck at 1:55 p.m. leaving in its wake six persons killed, 122 injured and \$12 million worth of property demolished.

The figures on the Charles City and Osage destruction have been in the paper all week.

The Belmont tornado was Iowa's most severe storm since 1918 and most damaging one in history for some of property damage. In terms of unknown reason, human losses from tornadoes in Iowa have moderated in the past 50 years.

Future Tornadoes

With most of the 1968 season likely ahead of us we may speculate about future tornado activity. Even though each tor-

nado is different from others, we can draw upon our climatic



BILL DAVIDSON

... Cities

Responsibilities

knowledge of past tornadoes to anticipate the future.

On hot and humid days in spring and early summer, usually recognized as potential tornado days, many Iowans listen to their radio or television so they will be quickly warned if a tornado should develop.

Since the mass reporting of these two recent tornadoes, I heard reports from newsmen or actual witnesses being interviewed that there wasn't any warning. That Wednesday afternoon, I left Austin, Minnesota for Waterloo at 3:00 p.m.

Reports Heard

From the time I got in the car until I arrived in Waterloo

by route through Charles City, there was severe weather and a tornado watch report every 10 minutes on a number of radio stations for the Charles City and Northeast Iowa area.

I have a sneaking suspicion that people aren't taking their responsibility to keep informed during adverse weather conditions or they do not understand the Weather Bureau's "lingo."

The Weather Bureau issues two kinds of tornado alerts. The "tornado watch" is an advisory that weather conditions are favorable for tornado formation in an area during the next few to several hours. The size of a "watch area" is usually about 100 miles wide and 300 miles long.

The "tornado warning" in that it advises that tornadoes are possible in a specified area. The "tornado warning" is issued when a tornado has actually been observed by a person or by radar.

Take Cover

When a "tornado warning" has been issued, persons in the affected area should immediately

ly take cover. The "tornado warning" will indicate the tornado position, its forecast path and time it is expected to pass.

If you should see a tornado, take immediate cover, but if you're not in imminent danger, first notify the U.S. Weather Bureau. The local Black Hawk County number is 224-9902. Then follow these recommendations:

(1.) Take shelter preferably in underground excavations such as a storm cellar, cave, south-east corner of a basement, or culvert.

(2.) If underground shelter is not available, a steel framed or reinforced concrete building is preferable. Stay a way from windows or open doors.

(3.) If above ground, use interior hallways. A desk, or table over a person provide additional protection. Avoid auditoriums and gymnasiums with poorly supported roofs.

Open Ditches

(4.) If your building is not reinforced, go quickly to a near-by reinforced building or underground or to a ravine or open ditch and lie flat.

(5.) If you are in open coun-

## Plenty of Unhappy People Around

# Low Income Beats a Gloom Tune

By Edmund R. De Moch

AP Business Writer

CHICAGO — If happiness is low food prices for the housewife and high crop prices for the farmer, there are plenty of unhappy people around.

The homemakers' complaint about high food prices and the farmers' lament over low income come both a melancholy tune. How can both be true?

Complex, Simple

The answer is both simple and complex — simple in that farmers are easy enough to the point and complex in that the middle has so far defied solution.

Here are the basic factors: The farmer normally cannot choose the time when he will sell. He usually has to sell at harvest — and pretty much at the offered price — or his crops spoil.

The cost of the middleman has risen sharply. This cost is in the processing, packaging, Europe, Africa and South America also harvested record desire for better meats with less fat, special diet foods, and increased gross expenses for the farmer and net income that

costs. Buyers have become more selective. They want better and this brings lower prices because they have to be commercially dried.

Federal farm policy has, at times, created problems for the farmer. Take the grain situation in 1967 crop year. Mainly because of the high moisture content, some sold for as low as 60 cents.

A year earlier, when less was produced, corn brought \$1.10 to \$1.20 a bushel.

Middleman's Costs

Now comes the middleman. His costs for labor and other things were climbing and so he bargained hard with the farmer. Then since he could not make up all of his increasing costs just by paying the farmer, he food a housewife bought in 1957-58 for herself, her husband and two small children cost \$25 a week. The Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the food a housewife bought in 1957-58 for herself, her husband and two small children cost \$25 a week. The Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the food a housewife bought in 1957-58 for herself, her husband and two small children cost \$25 a week.

Weekly Figure

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corn belt delayed the harvest to produce these foods and they cost more to buy.

Frozen foods, too, are big sellers because of their convenience. They cost more to produce and more to buy.

The federal government's cost of living index — of which food is a part — has risen over the past six months at a rate of 4 per cent a year.

The federal government's cost of living index — of which food is a part — has risen over 4 per cent a year.

In 1967, the rise was 3.1 per cent. This meant that in 1967 it cost \$11.82 to buy the goods and services one could get for \$10 in 1957-58.

Weekly Figure

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has not kept pace with these increases. All figures in billions.

Year Net Expenses  
1957 \$15.0 \$34.4  
1966 \$16.5 \$34.4  
1962 \$12.5 \$27.0  
1960 \$11.7 \$26.2

Going back even further, the Department of Agriculture reports that prices paid by farmers are now 3½ times what they were in 1910-1914. But the prices received by farmers are only 2½ times what they were then.

Freeman, speaking at a farmers' convention in St. Paul, Minn., late last year, shouldered some of the blame for federal policies that aggravated farmers' problems.

"If there is anybody to blame about low prices to the farmer, it's me," he said.

In an attempt to force prices higher, the National Farmers Organization has carried on campaigns to withhold from the market such items as grain and soybeans and some livestock.

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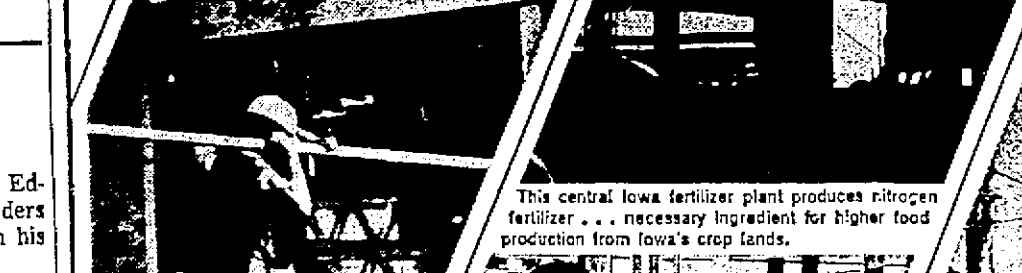
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## Making Iowa a Better Place for Industry

Along the power lines of Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives industry produces everything from farm equipment and school buses to meat products and fertilizer.

The impact of the progress of these Iowa industries is felt in every area, urban as well as rural, and in every cash register, every pocket and in the standard of living of every family in Iowa. Vital electric power, in rural Iowa areas, often supplied by one of Iowa's 65 RECs has indeed done much to help make Iowa a better place for industry!



This central Iowa fertilizer plant produces nitrogen fertilizer... necessary ingredient for higher food production from Iowa's crop lands.



This is Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ramaker. Mr. Ramaker is president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. Back in the 30's, men like Mr. Ramaker organized cooperatives, borrowed money from the Rural Electrification Administration... that's the REA... and built Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives.

This Northwest Iowa firm took advantage of all that is offered by rural Iowa. REC service plays a big part in rural Iowa development. This is why we say... RECs do much to help make Iowa a better place for industry!

We're Proud to be Part of Iowa's Progress

WORK BETTER  
LIVE BETTER  
FARM BETTER...  
ELECTRICALLY

Rural Electric Cooperatives OF IOWA